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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr 29 Apr 1980

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AUTHORITY	
31 AUG 1978, DoDD 5200.10 gp-4; 31 Aug 1978, DoDI 5230.24	

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

see p. 7  
(6) LESSONS LEARNED, HEADQUARTERS  
3D HOWITZER BATTALION 6TH ARTILLERY [u]-8  
APO 96295

AVFA-AT 2/6-CO

(11) 10 Aug 1966

SUBJECT: (9) Operational Report, for Quarterly Period Ending 31 Jul 1966. RCS  
CSM 65

(18) OACSFOR (19) OT-RD-660144

(12) 9p.

TO: See Distribution

APR 26 1968

Section I - Significant Organizational Activities

a. During the period 1 thru 7 May, the general cargo was prepared for shipment to the port. The VRC 12 Series Radios were received at Fort Sill on 5 May. Through an all out effort on the part of all agencies at Fort Sill, the radios were installed, checked out and repackaged for shipment with the General Cargo. A one week course in conduct of fire procedures and service practice was conducted for six newly assigned forward observer sections by the Artillery and Missile School.

b. The General Cargo was shipped from Fort Sill, Oklahoma to the port at Beaumont, Texas on 8 and 9 May 1966.

c. On 15 and 16 May, the red disk TAT was shipped from Fort Sill to the port at Oakland, California.

d. On 22 May, all personnel returned from leave and the final preparations for movement to the port began. Personnel Readiness Date was 23 May.

e. On 25 May, the battalion held a Retreat Review as a final farewell to Fort Sill. Maj Gen Harry H. Critz, Post Commander was the reviewing officer.

f. On 26 and 27 May, the battalion departed Fort Sill by troop train and moved to the port at Oakland, California.

g. During the period 28 May to 17 June, the battalion embarked at Oakland aboard the USNS Gen Nelson M. Walker. The ship moved to Tacoma, Washington for additional units, and proceeded to the port of Nha Trang. On 16 June, the ship was diverted to the port of Qui Nhon. The unit debarked at Qui Nhon Harbor on 17 June and was airlifted to Pleiku, RVN.

h. The Advanced Party/Rear Detachment consisting of 7 officers and 13 enlisted men, departed Fort Sill on 8 June by C130 Aircraft and arrived at Pleiku, RVN on 10 June 1966.

i. The battalion was attached to IFFORCE and further attached to the 52d Field Artillery Group. The 6th Gun Battalion, 14th Artillery was assigned as host unit.

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10 August 1966

**SUBJECT: Operational Report For Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966, (RCS CSFOR-65)**

j. On 17 June, the battalion established its base camp on Artillery Hill. Construction of a perimeter barrier and 17 perimeter bunkers was started immediately to extend the existing perimeter.

k. On 18 July, the battalion occupied the new base camp area.

l. On 22 July, the General Cargo arrived at Qui Nhon Harbor aboard the USNS Caper, after being held in Manila awaiting unloading priority at the port in Viet Nam.

m. On 25 July, the first TOE vehicles arrived at Pleiku by supply convoy.

n. From 27 thru 31 July, the unit continued to receive and unpack General Cargo.

o. The unit was engaged in training a total of eight days and in troop movement, a total of eighty-four days.

## Section II

### Part I. Observations (Lessons Learned)

#### Location Assignment

1. Item: Change of Location Assignment within RVN disseminated on a timely basis.

**Discussion:** Unofficial information was received at Fort Sill, Oklahoma as early as 15 April that the final destination of this organization would be Pleiku, RVN. This was officially confirmed by a letter from I FFORCEV Artillery Commander which was received on 24 May, two days before departing for the port of embarkation. However, port and shipping officials were not notified of a change in port of debarkation until one day out of the port of Nha Trang, RVN. At this time, the ship was diverted to Qui Nhon where the unit debarked. The Red disk TAT was loaded aboard the ship in the order that units were scheduled to debark. This necessitated almost complete unloading of the holds to unload this unit's equipment, causing an additional burden on the port facility as well as causing unnecessary wear and tear on equipment by the additional handling required. The ship with the General Cargo was not diverted from the original port of debarkation, causing an additional delay in the arrival of equipment. The unit arrived with a basic load of maps issued for the original area of assignment.

**Observation:** Any change to location assignments within RVN should be disseminated as timely as possible to all CONUS agencies involved in deployment of units.

#### Personnel

2. Item: Assignment of Medical Officer to deploying units.

**Discussion:** Due to the late assignment of the Battalion Surgeon, there was not sufficient time available for him to properly screen the medical records. Further, the Battalion Surgeon was not assigned during the training period prior to deployment. There are many duties and responsibilities that the Battalion Surgeon

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10 August 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report For Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966, (RCS CSFOR-65)

can assume during this most critical period, as well as training with the battalion during tactical field exercises. In addition, the Surgeon was not properly briefed on the medical problems that are predominant in Southeast Asia.

Observation:

a. The Battalion Surgeon should be assigned to the unit at least ninety (90) days prior to deployment in order that all of the necessary tasks and training may be accomplished.

b. The surgeon should be completely briefed on the specific medical problems that are predominant in Southeast Asia.

Logistics

3. Item: Red TAT shipment to accompany Main Body.

Discussion: Red TAT is normally planned to enable an organization to exist in a secure area for 30 days and then to receive general cargo shipment and move to a permanent base camp area.

Observation: Units should not plan on staying near port awaiting general cargo shipment but rather should plan on bringing 60 days supply of necessary items to exist and all items necessary to develop a Base Camp i.e. carpenter tools, pioneer tools, water cans, etc. Also bring enough communications equipment to set up a complete perimeter defense.

WABTOC Package

4. Item: Delays in availability of WABTOC package for newly arrived units.

Discussion: The WABTOC package was designed to improve the living conditions and provide certain essential items of equipment to units deploying to Southeast Asia. Much of this equipment is essential immediately after arrival for the unit to prepare barriers and defensive bunkers. The tent frames improve the living conditions tremendously. However, a delay in the arrival of this unit's WABTOC package nullified many of the reasons for it being issued. As of this date it has not been received. However, the perimeter barrier is completed, as well as all perimeter bunkers around the base camp. In addition, 6 permanent barracks buildings and two mess halls have been constructed through the Engineer Construction Self-Help program.

Observation: The unit's WABTOC package should be made available to new units soon after arrival in RVN if it is to fulfill the purpose for which it was designed. This can be accomplished by prepositioning the package at the unit's destination or shipping it from CONUS with the unit's Red disk TAT.

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10 August 1966

**SUBJECT:** Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966, (RCS CSFOR-65)

**Part II. Recommendations: None.**

/s/ Wm K Farmer  
WILLIAM K. FARMER  
LTC, Artillery  
Commanding

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AVFA-AT-52-CO (10 Aug 66) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966  
RCS(CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 52D ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96295, 19 August 1966

TO: Commanding General, I FFORCEV Arty, APO 96240

1. Forwarded.
2. Concur in observations. Report is considered adequate.

*O. L. Tobiason*

O. L. TOBIASON  
Colonel, Artillery  
Commanding

AVFA-AT-D (10 Aug 66) 2d Ind

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96240, 26 August 1966

TO: Commanding General, I FFORCEV, APO 96240, ATTN: AVF-GC-TNG

1. Forwarded.
2. Concur in contents of basic report.

*Ashley A. Blinn*

ASHLEY A. BLINN  
Colonel, Artillery  
Commanding

5  
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63

AVFA-GC-TNG (10 Aug 66)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (U)

Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO US Forces 96240 1 SEP 1966

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO US Forces 96307

Concur with comments in basic report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ROBERT A. DICKOVER  
Captain, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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63

AVHGC-DH (10 August 1966) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31  
July 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307

TO: Commander-in-Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-MH  
APO 96558 12 OCT 1966

1. (U) The Operational Report-Lessons Learned submitted by the  
3d Howitzer Battalion, 6th Artillery for the quarter ending 31 July  
1966 is forwarded herewith.

2. (U) Concur with the comments contained in the basic report  
and the preceding indorsements.

3. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, Item 1:

a. Procedures have been established at this headquarters  
to notify the following agencies of changes in destination or port of  
debarkation: DA, STRICOM, USARPAC, and MACV.

b. Available information indicates proper loading of  
troop or cargo ships can be accomplished routinely if the notice of  
change is dispatched 50 days prior to scheduled date of arrival of the  
unit in RVN. Available information also indicates that proper loading  
can be accomplished on an emergency basis if TELECON message concerning  
change of destination or port of debarkation is dispatched to the a-  
gencies listed above as late as 5 days before the scheduled departure  
date of the troop or cargo ship from CONUS port.

c. Every effort will continue to be made to provide  
prompt notification concerning changes in destination or port of de-  
barkation in order to ensure proper outloading of troop ships for RVN.

4. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, Item 3: This headquarters  
provides each major organization deploying to RVN a recommended list of  
supplies and equipment that should accompany that organization. As sup-  
plies become available in RVN they are deleted from the list and are no  
longer required to accompany troops.

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AVHGC-DH (10 August 1966)

4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31 July 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

5. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, Item 4: It is agreed that the WABTOC Package should be available soon after arrival, preferably immediately upon arrival in RVN. Sufficient supplies are not on hand in-country to support arriving units with WABTOC items. Units should arrange for timely arrival of WABTOC items before departing CONUS, and whenever possible, include as TAT.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
BOB K. BOWEN  
Capt, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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**31 OCT 1966**

GPOP-OT(10 Aug 66)

5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966,  
RCS CSFOR-65

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

This headquarters concurs with the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



L. L. CHAPPELL  
MAJ, AGC  
Asst AG

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